

# *Tree of Knowledge*

**Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, May 18, 1972**

---

## **The Tree of Knowledge**

The old mail route between Plymouth and Boston ran through Tarkiln (where there was a kiln used for making tar), a little village in west Duxbury.

At the four corners stood a sturdy oak on which was nailed a box into which the stagecoach driver deposited all mail for this area. Here it was collected by the townspeople and the letters and parcels to be taken to Boston next day, took its place.

Thus the tree became known as "The Tree of Knowledge."

Its site is now marked by a guide-board. Years ago, when Ralph Eastman was a vice-president of the State Street Trust, he wrote the clipper offering to replace the broken glass protecting the painted tree and stagecoach on the guide-board. If memory serves this was done.

Have you ever heard of "The Tea Party Tree?" Here's a paragraph about it which appeared in a pamphlet, DUXBURY DAY, published in 1909:

"Near the Lily Pond (where is that? -- Ed.) among the many forest trees was one finer and larger than all the rest, and which stood somewhat apart. This was known as The Tea Party Tree. Under its shade the baskets were carried, the cloth spread, and the lunch eaten with social converse. Many years ago the ruthless woodman's axe felled this noble oak and its beauty and shade live only in the memory of the elders of this generation."

Anyone know where Lily Pond is?

---